



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 20 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: E-19J

Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2012-0036
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 North Fairfax Drive, MN 2042-PDM
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and
Incidental Take Permit for the Indiana Bat for the Buckeye Wind Power Project,
Champaign, County, Ohio – CEQ No. 20130099

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Final EIS and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our September 24, 2012 comment letter, EPA rated the Draft EIS and HCP as *Lack of Objections*. EPA has no objection to the Proposed Action selected by USFWS, and we maintain our lack of objections. Mitigation for the potential impact of the authorized take will be provided by the conservation program described in the HCP.

Although we have no objection to the Proposed Action and HCP, we recommended in our Draft EIS comment letter that several issues be clarified in the Final EIS. Our comment letter requested information pertaining to streams, floodplains, intermittent or ephemeral streams and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. After reviewing the Final EIS, HCP, and responses to comments, we believe our concerns regarding these issues were adequately addressed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact Kathleen Kowal my staff at 312-353-5206

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Megan Seymour, USFWS, Ohio Ecological Services Field Office
Jennifer Norris, Ohio Department of Natural Resources